

The LMEA

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core
for LMEA members.

October 2011

LMEA Gets Ready to Negotiate a New Contract

It seems like just last year that we were starting fresh with a new collective bargaining agreement. That's because it was just last year that we started a new contract. The current agreement is for just two years, however, and so that means we need to bargain a successor agreement before the current one expires at the end of June. Our Combined Negotiations Committee (CNC) is already at work making preparations for the start of officially bargaining in January. The members of CNC, representing key subgroups of our union, are as follows: Co Chairs: Russ Loue (Prof.) and Larry Giaquinto (ESP), Darlene Mandarino (ESP), Mike Stettner (Prof.), Chris SantaMaria, Matt Birch(Prof.), Andrew Thomas (Prof.), Margy Kurtz (Prof.), Jackie Gaines (Prof.), Joanne Cook (Prof.), Kyle O'Brien (ESP), Phil Iannacone (ESP), William Lafferty (ESP), Lisa McDevitt (ESP), Eileen McGinley (ESP), Larry Collins (ESP), and Aimee Avellino (Prof.). Next month CNC will launch a survey of the membership to determine our bargaining priorities. This survey, along with all other communications from CNC to the members, will be conducted through our email blast. Currently 1269 members are signed up for the blast. A test message was sent on or about October 10th. If you did not receive it you should send an email to Lmea.personal.mail3@gmail.com to get on this important distribution list.

A Message From the Director of LMEA Outreach

Fellow LMEA Members,

Now that we have your personal email addresses--thank you--it's become very important that you check your address daily. (If your daily work experience is like mine, where you wade through lots and lots of emails, the last thing anyone wants to do is read more at home. However, protecting our industry is worth the extra effort.) On 9/27/11, we had to act quickly to call our state legislators to oppose an amendment that was not good for us.

Being ready to act at any time is a new part of membership in LMEA. Due to circumstances well beyond our control as citizens--gamesmanship on the part of legislators who may be trying sneak legislation through that can only happen if citizens are not paying attention, the vagaries of the legislative process regarding timing, etc.--we need to be poised for action. The "season" is upon us after the summer recess and Harrisburg is buzzing with legislative activity. Anti-public education legislators abound, millions of dollars of anti-public education money is flowing around Harrisburg, and anti-public education lobbying pressure is steady and intense.

So please, check your email daily, contribute to PACE--continuous if possible--and take action when needed! Thanks. - Joe Mudd

Five Seats on the LMSD School Board Are Up For Grabs in the November Election

On Election Day, November 8th, voters in Lower Merion will determine the next voting majority on the nine member Board of School Directors. LMEA members who live in Lower Merion and Narberth should pay close attention to the positions of the candidates, and [go to the polls](#) to elect board members who will support our employees by supporting the comprehensive educational

program run in Lower Merion schools. Seven candidates have declared for the five at-large seats on the Board. The top five vote-getters will win. The League of Women Voters will be hosting a candidate debate on Tuesday, October 25th, at Harriton HS, and on November 2nd at Lower Merion HS.

LMEA Members are Encouraged to Support the EFLM by Attending the Annual Fall Fundraiser on Saturday, November 5th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

The Education Foundation of Lower Merion (EFLM), now chaired by former BHES principal Judith Vietri, is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It is independent of the Lower Merion School District, but is intended to support the district's educational goals. The fall fundraiser this year "What Do You Know II" promises to be a fun and social evening that features food and drink, live music, a silent auction, and a trivia contest. Information about the event, including how to donate or register, can be found at <http://www.educationfoundationoflm.org/> under EVENTS. Each year, **the EFLM awards grants to teachers**, and welcomes proposals on a rolling basis. Guidelines and information on how to apply can be found at their website.

LMSD Art Teachers Display Their Talent in the Administration Building

The district has removed the portraits of former superintendents in the newly renovated Administration building and invited our art teachers to display their own work in a professional setting. Butch Smith, a former Harriton art teacher, assisted with the installation and the opening of the "gallery" on October 6th. Dozens of pieces of fine art and jewelry are now on display for anyone visiting that building. Congratulations and thanks go out to these teachers for helping the district show off the many talents of our staff to the larger community. Look for more events like this in the near future, and if called upon, we strongly urge members to participate.

Annual Maternity Leave Workshop Returns on December 6th

Members who are expecting a child or planning to start/expand the family should come to the free LMEA workshop on Maternity and Child Leave on **Tuesday, December 6, at 4pm in the LMEA Office**. The new contract language will be explained and everyone's unique question(s) will be answered by Aimee Avellino. Space is limited, so anyone interested should email Aimee at Cynwyd ES (avellia@lmsd.org) to save a spot for this popular event.

Some Minor Renovation Work Needed at the LMEA Office

The single greatest financial asset of the LMEA is its office located at 306 Parsons Avenue in Bala Cynwyd. A portion of member dues goes toward the utilities and maintenance of this small building. Last year a leaking roof was replaced, this summer the desktop computers were upgraded to new Macs. The next items in need of attention are the [rusty] metal awning and main roof downspout in the front (replace both) and the brick wall along the back of the building (pointing). If any member has had similar work done and can make a recommendation for a licensed and insured contractor please contact Chris at lmeducationassoc@comcast.net.

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